

TO: Members of Subcommittee No. 2 of the Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee (CPRSC)

FROM: Peter Baroni,
Special Counsel to the CPRSC

DATE: August 15, 2006

RE: Minutes of Subcommittee No. 2 conference call meeting --
August 14, 2006

On August 14, 2006 at 10:00am a meeting of Subcommittee #2 was held via conference call. Attending were Leigh Bienen, Mike Waller and Peter Baroni (special counsel to the Committee). Kirk Dillard and Tom Sullivan did not participate.

Item No. 1: Survey Issues/Questions. Leigh Bienen and Peter Baroni summarized the meeting of the subcommittee chairs regarding the survey questions submitted by all four subcommittees and the status of the retention of a social scientist to assist the Committee in conducting a survey. The interview of potential experts was intended to be complete by the next full Committee meeting, September 7, 2006.

Item No. 2: DNA Backlog. Peter Baroni reported that the Governor's Office has a new public safety attorney and that new person would need to be contacted to determine the status of the DNA backlog. The prior gubernatorial designee, Robin Olson, left her position before giving Baroni a formal response on the issue. Leigh Bienen asked Baroni if he would seek out a representative from the Governor's office or the State Police Crime Lab to address the Subcommittee on the DNA testing issues of (1) funding; (2) case volume (felons and cases); (3) procedures for testing (in-house and by contract labs); and (4) generally how the testing process is proceeding at this point.

Item No. 3: First Degree Murder Indictment Data Collection. Leigh Bienen reported that the Cook County Public Defender's Office had sent her several boxes of first degree murder indictments for cases their office is handling or has handled. Peter Baroni reported that Jerry Nora of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office is almost finished putting together a database of all first degree murder indictments filed by his office since 2003. However, he has detected several glitches in the system and anticipated resolving those issues by the end of September.

Item No. 4: Capital Punishment Protocols. Mike Waller reported that the protocols had, at long last, been jointly adopted by the Attorney General's Office and the Appellate Prosecutor's Office. Waller indicated that he would forward a copy to Peter Baroni for distribution to the entire Committee.

The meeting was adjourned.

Peter G. Baroni
Special Counsel to the CPRSC
Leinenweber & Baroni
Attorneys at Law